

CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES
EDITOR

Tuberculosis in California

(Continued from last issue)

This committee, composed of Doctors Henry Gibbons, Sr., W. R. Cluness and F. W. Hatch, made an extensive survey and presented a long report. The committee considered hospital sites at Atlas Peak, Veeder Mountain, Howell Mountain, Pope Valley and Troutdale in Napa County; Lakeport in Lake County; the Sierra Madre Range in Los Angeles County; Ojai Valley in Ventura County; and San Diego and vicinity. Exhaustive records of temperature, humidity and precipitation were made. Atlas Peak in Napa County was given first recommendation with a secondary recommendation that a State hospital for consumptives be established in the Sierra Madre Range near Los Angeles. In spite of this effort, no State hospital for the purpose was established.

During the calendar year 1881, out of a total of 6226 deaths from all causes, there were 931 deaths due to phthisis pulmonalis and 38 deaths to tubercular meningitis. Most of these deaths occurred in San Francisco, Oakland, San Jose, Los Angeles and Sacramento. Reports made during the early eighties place less stress upon tuberculosis and more upon smallpox, which had become widely prevalent in virulent form throughout the State. In 1883, yellow fever appeared in San Francisco harbor, the cases having been brought from Mexico by steamship. These and other acute epidemic diseases apparently were responsible for the seeming lack of attention that was given to tuberculosis. In the calendar year

1882, 1189 deaths occurred from phthisis pulmonalis and 45 from tubercular meningitis, out of a total of 7630 deaths from all causes, were registered. In the calendar year 1883, out of a total of 7209 deaths from all causes, 1320 were attributed to phthisis pulmonalis and 31 to tubercular meningitis. During the year July, 1884 to June, 1885, there were 1227 deaths from phthisis pulmonalis out of a total of 8238 deaths from all causes. During the year July, 1885, to June, 1886, out of a total of 9742 deaths from all causes, there were 1540 due to phthisis pulmonalis and 224 due to tubercular meningitis.

In a discussion of the subject, the Secretary of the State Board of Health said: "The large mortality from consumption is accounted for by the continuous stream of sufferers from this affection that is constantly pouring into this State with the fond hope of at least relief if not cure."

In 1886, Dr. H. S. Orme of Los Angeles, President of the State Board of Health, wrote an article upon the climatology and diseases of southern California. This report placed great emphasis upon the extensive migration of the tuberculous to California. It was only in 1882 that the tubercle bacillus was discovered and the following comment of Dr. Orme in this report is interesting:

"If the bacillus theory be true, the great danger to the general public lies in the myriads of these microbes which are daily deposited on every thoroughfare in the sputa of the suffering multitudes. Cultivators assert that the most

virulent form of tubercular sputum is the dried and pulverized. Thus, the sunshine and the breeze, health giving and invigorating to the sick, may become the agents of destruction to the well. No needless alarm is proposed by these remarks, but in the interest of preventive medicine, *the medicine of the future*, the attention of sanatoriums is urged with emphasis to this important subject."

During the fiscal year 1886-1887 there were 1617 deaths from consumption in California. Of these, 497 were in natives of the Atlantic States, 604 natives of foreign countries, 309 natives of Pacific States and 207 whose nativity was unascertained. During the fiscal year 1887-1888, there were 1832 deaths from consumption, an increase of 215 over the preceding year. The increase was credited to more extensive migration. Of these deaths, 782 were among foreign-born, 583 in natives of the Atlantic States, and 355 in natives of the Pacific States. The Secretary of the State Board of Health adds: "We thus infer that the increased mortality from consumption was among those who sought our equable and invigorating climate in the vain hope of restoration to health."

During the fiscal year 1888-1889, there were 1727 deaths from consumption. Of these, 744 were in natives of foreign countries, 451 in natives of the Atlantic States, 334 in natives of the Pacific States, and 198 whose nativity was unknown.

At its regular meeting, held in October, 1889, the State Board of Health passed a resolution pertaining to the control of pulmonary diseases in San Quentin and Folsom prisons. It was resolved that a circular be issued by the State Board of Health to the superior judges of each county of the State, urging them, before sentencing criminals to State prison, to have examinations made by county physicians and, if pulmonary diseases were found present or likely to develop, to sentence such prisoners to Folsom rather than to San Quentin.

1890-1899

In the eleventh biennial report of the California State Board of Health, published in 1890, Dr. George M. Kober, who was then stationed at Fort Bidwell in Modoc County, published a scholarly paper entitled "The Etiology and Prevention of Tuberculosis." In this paper there was presented a careful and reliable report on the status of tuberculosis at that time. Dr. Kober had been stationed at the Indian School at Fort Bidwell for many years. He later became head of Georgetown University at Washington, D. C., and attained eminence before his death, which occurred recently.

During the fiscal year July 1, 1890, to June 30, 1891, 1818 deaths occurred from consumption in California and during the following fiscal year, July 1, 1891, to June 30, 1892, there were 2304 deaths from

consumption within the State. A severe outbreak of epidemic influenza occurred in December of 1891 and January of 1892. This disease was pandemic and its history was not unlike the history of the pandemic which occurred in 1918-1919. In 1891-92, the highest tuberculosis mortality occurred during the height of the influenza epidemic, just as it did in the later pandemic at the end of the World War.

Beginning in July, 1890, monthly reports showing the incidence of communicable diseases were published by the State Board of Health. Local health officers and correspondents had supplied the data upon which these reports were based. Mortality reports were received also. Consumption, of course, was reported in a very incomplete manner, but an effort was made, at least, to secure reliable information relative to the status of the disease.

During the fiscal year July 1, 1892, to June 30, 1893, there were 2032 deaths from consumption recorded in the State and during the next fiscal year, July 1, 1893, to June 30, 1894, 1789 deaths from consumption were registered. During these two years, Asiatic cholera and smallpox in other States received a great deal of attention from the State Board of Health and little was done officially in the control of tuberculosis. At the State Sanitary Convention held in San Jose April 16, 1894, several important papers relative to tuberculosis were presented. They were as follows: The Relationship Existing Between Bovine and Human Tuberculosis, by R. A. Archibald, D.V.S., Sacramento; A Plea for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, by George M. Kober, M.D., Fort Bidwell; The Prevention of Contagious and Infectious Diseases With Special Reference to Tuberculosis, by Winslow Anderson, M.D., of San Francisco, and The Sanitary Control of Tuberculosis, by S. S. Herrick, M.D., of San Francisco.

Dr. Herrick had recently come to San Francisco from New Orleans, where he had been prominent in medicine and in public health activities. Dr. W. F. Wiard of Sacramento, President of the State Board of Health at that time, delivered a paper entitled "Tuberculosis—Its Communicability and Prevention." Dr. Wiard read the same paper at the meeting of the American Public Health Association in Toronto in 1894.

These papers give evidence of the rapid strides that had been made in the establishment of a scientific foundation in the control of this disease. It is revealed that the medical men who prepared these papers had read available literature and had developed great interest in the prevention and control of tuberculosis.

In 1896, the State Board of Health became concerned relative to tuberculosis among milch cows. In April of 1896 the board recommended that the tuber-

culin test for consumption be applied to dairy cows and that all milk from dairies that kept tuberculous cows be excluded from sale and consumption. The report reads: "If the owners chose to kill such cows, so much the better, and the loss should fall on the owners, as the loss that falls on the owners of hogs that die of cholera. If the State undertakes to pay for all sick animals, it should include all kinds and not tuberculous cattle only. The Pure Food Law, passed by the last Legislature, covers the sale of milk of diseased cows, as well as the sale of the flesh of diseased animals. The simple enforcement of that law would do away with the dairy products of consumptive cows and also their carcasses."

(Continued in next issue)

DEAD BODIES NOT IN DEMAND

The following communication, signed but without address, has been received by the State Department of Public Health:

"It has often been said in college that a person could sell their body for a sum of money to the State for medical purposes. The money could be enjoyed while one lived and after death repose peacefully for the benefit of the State. Owing to urgent circumstances, I should like to be more fully informed of this matter and regard an early reply as a great act of kindness."

The above letter is published, together with this reply, in order that, if possible, the inquirer may have the following information:

Under the California law, bodies of unclaimed dead are made available for scientific purposes. There is no dearth of material. In some special cases known to medical men, bodies of individuals suffering from certain diseases might be of interest for study. No funds are available, however, for the purchase of any such bodies and it is hopeless for any individual to expect to receive funds for his body, to be used scientifically, after death.

DATES ANNOUNCED FOR TECHNICIANS EXAMINATION

The examinations of laboratory technicians by the State Department of Public Health will be held Thursday, November 16, in Berkeley and Friday, November 17, in Los Angeles. Applications must be mailed not later than November 8 and should be addressed to Dr. W. H. Kellogg, Chief of the Bureau of Laboratories, Life Sciences Building, University of California, Berkeley.

Medicine absorbs the physician's whole being because it is concerned with the entire human organism.—Goethe.

THE RESULTS OF MATERNAL EDUCATION

By ELLEN S. STADTMULLER, M.D., Chief, Bureau of Child Hygiene

In the multiple activities of public health one can not always estimate at once the results of the work being conducted. It is only by a long view over a period of years that the actual results of work are seen. The following tables show a constant decline in many of the principal causes of infant death. This is particularly evidenced in the communicable disease field, in the deaths from tuberculosis, pneumonia and venereal disease, all of which have almost been cut in half over the ten-year period.

Especial attention shauld be paid to the marked decline in the deaths from diarrhea and enteritis. This is the field in which education of the mother should show results, as a larger part of these diseases is due to the type of feeding and the handling of the foods of the young infant. During the ten-year period, from 1923 to 1932, the deaths from these diseases have been reduced by two-thirds, a real demonstration of the effect of maternal education.

INFANT DEATHS, BY CAUSES, ANNUALLY, CALIFORNIA, 1923-1932

Causes	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927	1928
All Causes	5846	5832	5855	5180	5268	5220
Rate per 1000	72.9	67.1	68.5	62.9	62.5	62.4
Whooping Cough	184	104	293	84	115	193
Influenza	80	61	103	131	76	208
Tuberculosis (all forms)	104	86	107	64	90	83
Venereal Diseases	89	91	84	52	72	67
Nervous System	140	167	143	111	144	135
Pneumonia	816	838	827	769	795	896
Other Respiratory	79	69	54	50	64	42
Diarrhea and Enteritis	1133	1044	946	833	791	680
Other Digestive	129	137	95	95	86	108
Malformations	455	455	540	505	449	387
Early Infancy	2240	2277	2258	2123	2159	2051
External Causes	79	95	116	90	97	89
All Other Causes	318	408	285	273	330	281

Causes	1929	1930	1931	1932
All causes	5139	4945	4609	4125
Rate per 1000	63.1	58.6	56.5	52.8
Whooping Cough	191	112	94	111
Influenza	112	74	71	76
Tuberculosis (all forms)	84	88	73	66
Venereal Diseases	52	69	50	48
Nervous System	89	85	86	87
Pneumonia	861	825	687	599
Other Respiratory	62	45	23	41
Diarrhea and Enteritis	702	693	582	449
Other Digestive	97	60	54	53
Malformations	432	457	447	438
Early Infancy	2084	2038	2037	1867
External Causes	98	71	117	79
All Other Causes	275	328	288	211

TOTAL INFANT DEATHS, BY CAUSES, CALIFORNIA, 1923-1932

Diseases of Early Infancy	21,134
Pneumonia	7,913
Diarrhea and Enteritis	7,853
Malformations	4,565
Whooping Cough	1,481
Nervous System	1,187
Influenza	992
External	931
Other Digestive	914
Tuberculosis (all)	845
Venereal Diseases	674
Other Respiratory	529
All Other Causes	2,997

A sick individual, community, town or city behaves, in general, the same way.

NEW HEALTH OFFICER AT NEWMAN

Dr. J. A. Albert has been appointed City Health Officer of Newman, to succeed Dr. H. V. Armistead, who died recently.

Centuries ago Herophilus said, "Science and art offer nothing of value, strength is incapable of effort, wealth useless and eloquence powerless, if health be wanting." An El Centro speaker, in discussing the "Philosophy of Life," recently asserted that "the human race should be physically viable, intellectually rational, socially moral and spiritually harmonious." And so through the ages health has been placed above all other desired possessions.—Warren F. Fox, M.D., in *Imperial County's Health*.

Men and women do not grow into adult success out of childish unsuccess. The child, is in very truth father to the man. If we desire, as we do, to equip our children for a successful and happy life, we must realize the importance of making them successful and happy now, at the age of two or six or fourteen.—Aida de Costa Breckenridge.

MORBIDITY*

Diphtheria

51 cases of diphtheria have been reported, as follows: Fresno 1, Kern County 3, Los Angeles County 4, Alhambra 1, Glendale 2, Hermosa 1, Los Angeles 27, Pasadena 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 2, Sacramento 2, San Francisco 3, Tulare County 1, Fillmore 1, Santa Paula 1.

Chickenpox

201 cases of chickenpox have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Oakland 28, Los Angeles County 16, Los Angeles 20, San Francisco 35, Watsonville 11.

Measles

208 cases of measles have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: San Diego 171.

Scarlet Fever

165 cases of scarlet fever have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Los Angeles County 28, Los Angeles 35, Stockton 11.

* From reports received on October 23d and 24th for week ending October 21st.

Whooping Cough

204 cases of whooping cough have been reported. Those communities reporting 10 or more cases are as follows: Alameda County 27, Oakland 22, Los Angeles County 18, Beverly Hills 11, Los Angeles 39, Orange County 11, San Joaquin County 12.

Smallpox

2 cases of smallpox have been reported, as follows: Ventura County 1, Santa Paula 1.

Typhoid Fever

18 cases of typhoid fever have been reported, as follows: Orange County 1, Roseville 1, Sacramento County 1, San Francisco 3, Sonoma County 3, Turlock 1, Tehama County 1, Tulare County 7.

Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case of epidemic meningitis from Stanislaus County has been reported.

Poliomyelitis

8 cases of poliomyelitis have been reported, as follows: Livermore 1, Oakland 1, Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, Riverside 2, San Bernardino County 1, San Francisco 1.

Trichinosis

One case of trichinosis from Burbank has been reported.

Food Poisoning

16 cases of food poisoning have been reported, as follows: Los Angeles County 10, Glendale 1, Montebello 1, Hawthorne 3, Sonoma County 1.

Undulant Fever

5 cases of undulant fever have been reported, as follows: Alhambra 1, Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 1, San Bernardino County 1.

Psittacosis

One case of psittacosis from Los Angeles has been reported.

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